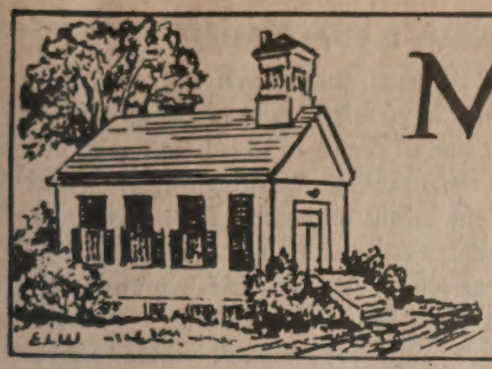
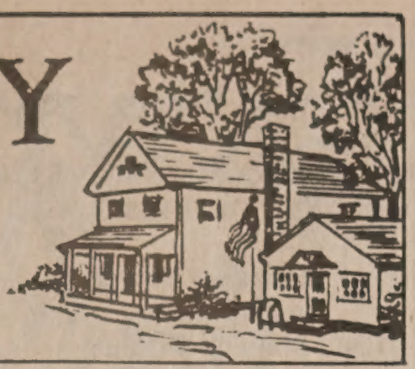


MONTEREY NEWS

OCTOBER 1987



TOWN NEWS

Road Work in Monterey

Workmen have been grinding up and replacing the surface of Route 23 between the old firehouse and Bidwell Road. The 7,000 linear feet of repair work was paid for by a Strap Grant from the state.

Monterey Selectmen are pleased to report that Routes 23 and 57 now sport newly painted center lines at no cost to taxpayers. The work was done through a federally funded program administered by the state DPW.

Bids are pending on 1,280 tons of asphalt for leveling courses on the westerly end of Route 23 and the easterly end of Tyringham Road. There is an additional bid out for repair of a 700-foot section of Sandisfield Road.

The Selectmen offered apologies for neglect of gravel roads through the spring and summer, explaining that the Town grader has been breaking down repeatedly. The Town crew hasn't been able to get the necessary hours out of the machine to keep gravel roads in good repair. The Selectmen are considering purchasing a new grader, a new demonstration grader, or a used grader. Bids are being formulated.

Town Hall Planning Committee Summoned

On September 14 the Board of Selectmen sent letters to eight residents of the town, inviting them to serve on a Town Hall Planning Committee. The letter said, "We feel that the present facility is no longer adequate for conducting all the diverse functions that are required for running Town government, for storing public documents, and for providing public access to the handicapped." The initial planning session on Monday, September 21, was attended by Maynard Forbes, Hans Kessler, Barbara Swann, and Edith Wilson.

Monterey's Insurance Partially Reinstated

Nicholas Wool reported to the Selectmen that the Town obtained liability coverage for police and public officials on September 22. Coverage for punitive damages is still to come. Monterey's previous coverage was not renewed after August 24 this year, and Town officials have been seeking other carriers in the meantime. The approximate increase in cost of the new policy compared with the old one will be 20 to 25%.

Board of Health Hours Announced

Matt Williams, Chairman of the Board of Health, has announced that the hours for doing Board of Health business will be Monday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Town Offices. For information call Matt at 528-2902.

The Beautiful Konkapot

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has received a $20,000 grant from the Department of Environmental Management's Scenic Rivers program to survey and map the major attributes and issues along the entire length of the Konkapot River. Once the survey is accomplished, the Commission will make recommendations to towns situated on the river regarding such things as preservation and enhancement of significant natural resources, problems of pollution or trespassing, public access, zoning, and recreational potential.

The Konkapot was listed in an inventory of potential scenic rivers in a study made ten years ago. Being on that list is one of the first criteria for the present funding. The river is considered by the BRPC to be particularly beautiful and worthy of a good plan for protection and management. Local citizens will be enlisted from each town along the river to meet with the Commission in its planning process. Residents will be asked to help locate natural resources, historic sites, potential recreational sites, pollution or erosion problems, and the like.

Once significant sites and problems are identified, the river will be mapped and a slide presentation prepared to show in the towns and the school systems to promote river awareness. All agencies involved in planning (Open Space Committees, Planning Boards, Conservation Commissions, Parks Commissions, etc.) are urged to be involved in carrying out the survey and plan. The time period for the project is one year.

— Ellen Pearson

CHURCH NEWS

October Calendar for Monterey United Church of Christ

Sunday, October 4

WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY and NEIGHBORS-IN-NEED OFFERING

Sundays

9:30-10:15 Focus on Church Life—a time for prayer and discussion

10:30-11:30 Morning Worship

Mondays

October 12, 7:30 at the Parsonage: Parish Council

12:00 Noon: Food for Friends—luncheon for Seniors in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 6

7:00 a.m. Prayer Breakfast at the home of Alice Howell and Walter Andersen

Wednesdays

October 7, 6:30 p.m. Agape Meal: Potluck fellowship in Fellowship Hall with singing

October 28, 6:30 p.m. Community Dinner: Potluck supper with program for whole community

Thursdays

8:00 a.m. Half-hour support group through discussion, prayer and meditation

6:45-8:15 p.m. Community Building group studying M. Scott Peck's *The Different Drum*. (This group is already formed—if you are interested in joining another session, please speak to the pastor.)

Friday

October 9, 8:00 a.m. Deacons' Meeting at the home of Mary Ward

Saturday, October 3

10:00 a.m. Yom Kippur—Day of Atonement. Letter writing to congresspeople supporting the Arias Central American Peace Agreement by refusing to vote for any additional aid to the contras. Fellowship Hall. Bring a pen: paper, envelopes and stamps will be provided.

Special Events

American Indian program sponsored by the Arts Council on Sunday, October 11, 7:30 p.m.

All Church Fellowship: bring a bag lunch to church at 12:30 on October 18, and we'll leave for a walk around Benedict Pond.

What About The Neighbors-In-Need Offering?

We're Number One! At least, that's what we Americans proudly claim to be in many things. But the prevention of infant mortality is not one of them. In that field, we're not even in the top ten! And in places like Washington, D. C., and the Mississippi Delta, the infant mortality rate is as high as that in Third World countries. Disturbing facts like these provide the background for one of the ministries supported by the 1987 Neighbors-In-Need all-church offering.

NIN, as it is called, is the annual response of United Church of Christ congregations to our disadvantaged neighbors in the United States. The Monterey Church will receive this important offering on Sunday, October 4.

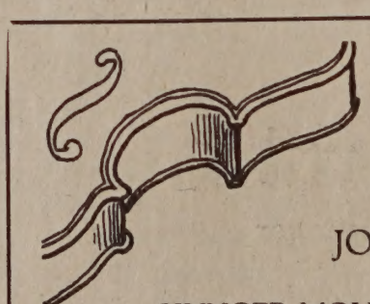
With its share of our gifts to Neighbors-In-Need, the UCC Office for Church in Society intends to launch a ministry that raises public awareness about the crisis of infant mortality and low birth weight in the United States. More specifically, the program will target high-risk groups and then develop cooperative efforts with church advocates, as well as private and government agencies, committed to reducing infant mortality.

Other NIN programs our 1987 gifts will support are: ministries with older Black Americans, whose average income—and quality of life—falls far below that of other Americans in the same age group (Commission for Racial Justice); ministries with migrant farmworkers, whose health is endangered by pesticides (CRJ); ministries to develop leadership capabilities among immigrant women in the areas of community service and organization (United Church Board for Homeland Ministries); ministries with low income and minority youth who are at educational risk (UCBHM); and ministries with American Indian members of the United Church of Christ (Council for American Indian Ministry).

All of us know how great are the unmet needs of some of our neighbors in American society today. Yet, no individual, or local church, can hope to make much of a difference alone. But together we can bring direct assistance to those who suffer and also help eliminate the causes of their suffering by advocating changes in public policy.

A Plea for a Piano at the Church, Please

Would any reader of this newsletter have a fine piano—grand or upright—that he or she would consider loaning to the church? Acoustically, our sanctuary is a marvelous place to make music. With a good instrument there would be more opportunities for recitals. If you can help, please call Robert Palin, 528-5850. Thanks.



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Translating Spiritual Awareness into Public Service

President Reagan has actually signed a major peace agreement among the five Central American nations. The agreement planned by Costa Rica's president Oscar Arias commits the governments of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala to ceasefires in those countries undergoing war, talks with their internal opposition groups, an amnesty for those who have been at war with them, complete presss freedom and regular elections, an end to aid guerrilla groups in the region, and an end to allowing their territory to be used to support guerrillas. This plan is to go into effect on November 7, 1987.

Unfortunately, top U. S. officials bad mouth the peace agreement to the point of requesting more aid to the contras immediately. Such aid could only ruin the success of the peace plan. Present funding for the contras ends September 30. Votes on additional aid are likely between September 22 and November 7. The administration argues that only the threat of military action will provide the pressure needed to make the Central American peace agreement work.

By contrast mature religious communities and organizations, among them the United Church of Christ, Sojourners and Fellowship of Reconciliation, have strongly denounced the immorality and illegality of aiding the contras. Avery Post, president of the United Church of Christ, writes in an August 20 letter to pastors: "General Synods 14, 15, and 16 have all spoken out opposing all overt or covert aid to the contras. Informed by their close ties to churches in Nicaragua and a steady stream of visitors from U. S. churches to Nicaragua and Nicaraguan church people to the U. S., the churches of this country have been the major institution opposing this war."

We can do something about expressing our opposition to further funding of the contras. October 3 we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. to become better informed and to write to our congresspeople about giving support to the Central American peace plan. Quoting Gretchen Eick, U. C. C. Office of Church in Society worker, "The policy of funding and organizing a war against Nicaragua has been tried for six years, killing 20,000 Nicaraguans and displacing 250,000. The peace agreement pledges democratic changes inside Nicaragua and the other countries and is the region's agreed-upon course. Supporting it and not the contras, who continue to kill civilians and destroy crops, homes, clinics, and schools, is the best hope for peace and security for Central America." (National *Impact*)

— Robert Palin, Pastor

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MONTEREY ARTS COUNCIL NEWS

Local artists who wish to apply for a Massachusetts Arts Lottery Grant may obtain an application at the Monterey Town Hall. The deadline for returning those applications is October 13, 1987. The applications can be mailed to The Monterey Arts Council, Monterey, MA 01245. Many artists in our town have taken advantage of these grants, and we encourage artists who have never participated to apply.

The Monterey Arts Council meets every third Tuesday of the month in the basement of the United Church of Christ at 7:30 p.m. Our next scheduled meeting will be October 20, 1987. We will begin planning for our annual winter Film Festival. Please come and join us if you are interested in working on this project.

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PERSONAL NOTES

Nancy Kalodner of Benchmark Real Estate has been honored as the Berkshire County Board of Realtors' Realtor of the Year. The designation of Realtor of the Year is based on Nancy's demonstrated commitment to the Code of Ethics and professionalism in the real estate brokerage practice and her active participation in Board activities and offices. Congratulations, Nancy! Nancy lives on Beartown Road with her son Joel.

Hats off to **C. Ben Buck**, who has volunteered to be on loan to the Berkshire United Way to assist in all aspects of the 1987 campaign effort in South County. Ben, a retired vice president of Continental Insurance in New York City, lives on Beartown Road with his wife Dolly.

Best wishes to **Elise Ann Kessler**, daughter of Hans and Jane Kessler of Main Road and **John R. Wiley**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Wiley of Glenville, New York, who have announced their engagement. Elise, who is nursery manager at Bellvue Maternity Hospital in Niskoyuna, and John, who is employed by Christman Landscaping in Niscoyuna, have set a wedding date of November 21. Both are active members of the Schenectady Adirondack Club, and like Elise's dad, Hans, are both ADK 46ers. Elise and John will reside in Ballston Spa, New York.

And surprising but happy news came to **Bud** and **Shirley Pearl** of Bidwell Road that their daughter Jayne had eloped. **Richard Hommel** and **Jayne Pearl** were wed September 21 and are residing in a suburb of Palo Alto, California. Hearty congratulations to all of you!

Congratulations to **Tom Jr.** and **Kathy Andrus** on the birth of their son, **Thomas Matthew**, on September 13. Little Thomas weighed in at 7 lbs. 13 oz., and is happily at home now entertaining Mom and Dad during the night. Best wishes, you two, and to paternal grandparents **Tom** and **Pat Andrus** of Main Road.

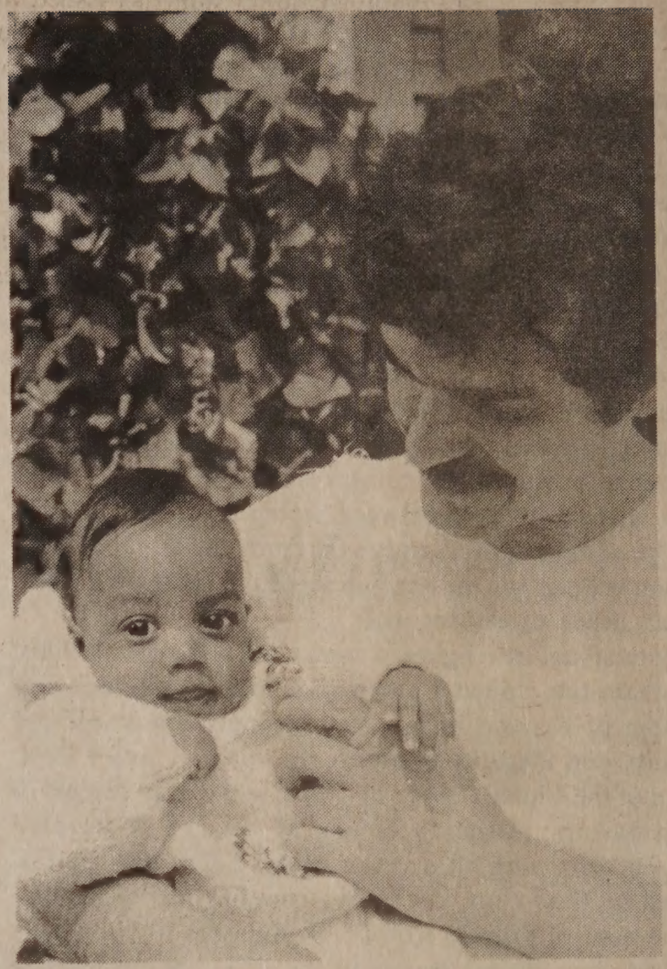
Hearty congratulations to **Wayne Dunlop** and **Susan Sellew** on the arrival of little **Tarsi** on September 12. **Ann McGinley** made the trip to India to meet Tarsi, and after a few delays during which Ann happily volunteered her time working in the orphanage, the two made the long trip home. Tarsi is settling in quickly and happily at Rawson Brook Farm with an elated Wayne and Susan.

Welcome back to **Walter Andersen** and **Alice Howell** of Beartown Road, who recently returned from a delightful three-week trip to Scotland. Walter claims it rarely rains in Scotland while he's there, defying its reputation each time. So perhaps if you're planning a trip you should do it simultaneously and cash in on Walter's luck!

Best of luck to **Leslie Scutellaro** of Mt. Hunger Road, who has accepted a position teaching art, grades K-6, at the Otis Elementary School.

And best of luck also to **Michelle Grotz** who recently entered her freshman year at Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, with lots of enthusiasm.

And to **Bob Gauthier**, who is trying life on the *other* side of the desk again, as a graduate student at UMass, we wish you all the best. Son **Jimmy** is also a student there, having just entered his senior year. That's great!



SUSAN McALLESTER

Tarsi Sharsa and Wayne Dunlop. Tarsi, born in Delhi, India, on May 9, is now at home with Susan Sellew and Wayne Dunlop at Rawson Brook Farm.

Happy Birthday Wishes to **Jeff Gauthier** on September 13, to **myself** (!?) on September 26, and to **Jim Gauthier** on October 2. And very Happy Anniversary wishes to **Bob** and **Barbara Gauthier** on September 17 and to **Vincent** and **Leslie Scutellaro** on September 23.

Thanks for your news items! Please keep them coming. Just jot your news down and drop it at the General Store, send it to me or give me a call, 528-4519 evenings. Appreciate it!

— Stephanie Grotz

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

The Monterey Conservation Commission has issued an Order of Conditions for the fall drawdown of Lake Garfield. The Commission requires that the work be completed by October 15 in order not to undermine the preparations of lake-dwelling animals for winter. It was stipulated that the small portion of the lake near the pipes going under Tyringham Road be kept at normal levels this winter by watchful manipulation of the flood gates. The major portion of the lake will be drawn down as usual, although not quite to previous levels.

A cover letter attached to the Order read as follows:

Dear Monterey Board of Selectmen:

After ten years of annual lake drawdown, a one-day baseline water quality survey of Lake Garfield conducted by the Division of Water Pollution Control on August 11, 1986, shows changes in the weed composition of the lake as well as continued low hypolimnetic dissolved oxygen values which are below the recommended value for the maintenance of a healthy fish population. As the letter accompanying the study points out, low oxygen values indicate high levels of activity by bacteria breaking down organic matter. Sources of organic matter include weeds, algae and detrital matter from shorelines and streams. Recent studies as well as field experience have shown that drawdown can create new problems as it solves old ones.

The Monterey Conservation Commission feels that the time for focusing on more complex and integrated systems of lake management is long overdue. Weeds killed by drawdown decompose and add to the oxygen depletion in the water. The two species of weeds showing the greatest increase in the '86 study are drawdown resistant and will require more creative techniques for eradication. First-line sources of nutrients such as septic systems, lawns, deciduous trees, paved or otherwise impervious surfaces, and erosion of slopes under construction must receive more aggressive control.

Decisions as to where to spend time, money and energy in future work on Lake Garfield can only be made based on data and recommendations derived from the lake itself by qualified scientists. We urge the Selectmen of Monterey to apply to the Mass. Clean Lakes Program for a comprehensive, funded study of Lake Garfield.

Very truly yours,

Catherine S. Mielke, Chairman
MONTEREY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE SELECTMEN

According to the Order of Conditions issued by the Monterey Conservation Commission, the lake drawdown this year will begin October 1 and will be completed by October 15. The lake will be refilled by mid-April, given normal weather conditions. The small lake will be kept at normal levels this winter.

PARK COMMISSION NEWS

The Park Commission is undertaking an expansion of programs and facilities. Although a Five-Year Plan will be the superstructure for development of town recreation, there are immediate developments that will affect everyone.

The future of the town beach is an immediate concern. The first meeting of the Beach Committee, Saturday, October 10, 10:00 a.m. in the Church basement, will address a possible new beach location, additional parking, lifeguards, entry passes, and facilities such as toilet and playground. We need input!

Skating is a new addition to the recreation program, and the Skating Committee will determine the location of our skating area. Brewer Pond will only be partially drawn down this year, and it would be possible to maintain a designated area there. Or, we could construct a more substantial facility than last year in Greene Park. NOW is the time to come forward and volunteer! The first meeting of the Skating Committee will take place during our meeting October 8, 7:30 p.m. at the Town offices. Skating can only exist with community support.

A committee is being formed to design and construct a gazebo for Greene Park. The Friends Of Greene Park have raised money and offered designs. The Arts Council is offering their considerable talent and energy. The gazebo will be constructed with local, volunteer labor: a community project. It will provide shelter for meetings and other events. Come to the meeting on October 13, Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Church basement.

The Tennis Committee has made an agreement (pending insurance coverage) with Camp Deerwood on Lake Buel Road to lease (for a nominal fee) tennis courts for the Monterey public. Camp Deerwood's Robert Zantay, in a strong gesture of community support, has offered at least three courts for exclusive Monterey use Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from May 14 until September 10 and unlimited use before and after those dates. The Tennis Committee will offer tennis clinics for children and adults modeled after our successful swimming program. What we learn from this program will serve as a model for town tennis on our future town courts. Monterey Public Tennis is a reality. Our committee needs additional people power. For information on participation, come to the next meeting—October 24, 10:00 a.m. at Camp Deerwood.

— Dek Tillett, Fran Amidon, Tom Rosenthal

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BEARTOWN STATE FOREST

Last month I left off with an invitation to everyone to come out and hike the 1.5-mile Benedict Pond Loop Trail. What I failed to mention was that there are numerous other trails that wind their way throughout Beartown. Though many of you know and use the Beartown trails, perhaps not all of you are fully aware of the broad range of opportunities that are available for a variety of trail uses. Along with a general description of the trails I would like also to tell you about an exciting new trails program. First, let's hit the trail(s).

As you enter Beartown from Blue Hill Road you first arrive at our trailhead parking lot. There, you will find a topographic map of the Forest along with a box of printed maps for your use (holler at me if ever you find the map box empty). Shown there also is a trail color key. Memorize that color system to avoid conflicting uses not compatible with your own.

In total, Beartown offers the following miles of trail types:

1. Hiking — 6.5 miles.
2. Cross-country ski and bridle — 15 miles.
3. Snowmobile — 25.
4. Mountain bike (for Roger Tryon and Stan Tiska, among others) — where eagles dare, but not on the hiking trails, please.

These trail mileages are exclusive of each other and so represent a total of 46.5 miles of trails. For winter trail use, it should be noted that other than for parking access all the roads are left unplowed and are used primarily for snowmobiling. People on ATV's do use the snowmobile trails, but during the snowless months they are not allowed on the public road system. All these recreational vehicles must of course have a Recreational Vehicle Registration, and the users must wear a helmet. In addition, recreational vehicle parking during the snowless months is at the site of the old CCC camp, not at Benedict Pond.

The premier trail in Beartown, in fact the premier trail in the Berkshires if not the country, is the Appalachian Trail. From Georgia to Maine it stretches 2,100 miles, and five miles of it traverses Beartown. For the through hikers there are sleeping shelters and for the day hiker some beautiful views to the southeast from the "ledges." That trail runs jointly with the Pond Loop Trail for a short distance and many people combine the two for additional hiking pleasure. On neither of these trails is motorized use allowed, and they are not recommended for cross-country skiing.

To utilize the trail system in the winter just follow the signs from the parking lot. We are presently in the process of rerouting some of the winter use to reduce the possibility of skier/snowmobiler conflicts. The success of that effort will largely depend upon the cooperation of all the trail users. Recently, the Division of Forests and Parks designated Beartown as a "Quality Trail-Use Area" for both cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. The Forest Rangers will be out on both snowmobiles and skis to maintain the trails and to provide you with any on-trail assistance that you may need.

One cautionary note to all trail users: Please limit your trail use during the annual deer hunting season. Though it encompasses much of the months of November and December, the most intense period of hunting is from the Monday after Thanksgiving to the second week in December (this year, November 30 to December 9).

Earlier, I mentioned a new trails program. Called the Adopt-A-Trail Program, it is modeled after the highly successful maintenance effort conducted by volunteers on the Appalachian Trail, most notably in New England by the Appalachian Mountain Club. Operating statewide throughout the Division of Forests and Parks, it is working very well in Beartown. My mentioning it here is primarily to give recognition to the local groups who have thus far adopted their own trail. They are:

1. Monterey/New Marlboro Boy Scout Troop #39 — Constructing a new "Forest Management Interpretive Trail."
2. Kolburne School's Overland Program — Benedict Pond Loop Trail.
3. Great Barrington Varsity Scout Team — Two miles of ski trail.
4. Lee Boy Scout Troop #45 — Old ski slopes trail and shelter.

These groups are doing a tremendous job in augmenting the work that the Forest Rangers perform. The community is indeed an asset, as this type of cooperation is vital to the continued success of the management of our public lands.

— Thomas W. O'Brien

COMPOSTING

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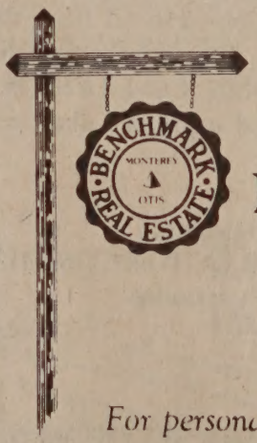

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SNAILS IN A GLASS BOX

Several weeks ago we set up an aquarium full of Lake Garfield flora and fauna in our living room. It took some days for the muck to settle onto the sandy bottom and for the various shy creatures to reveal themselves in the bright light of day in front of our living room window. It also has taken us a little while to settle down and tune in to the high drama of invertebrate life as it unfolds before us, any time we care to sit and watch.

The principal creatures in our aquarium are snails, and we have three kinds. At first we were only aware of the largest, which I call buffalo snails. They are big, stolid-looking members of our glass-box community, and we soon came to think of them as predictable and slightly boring. They move slowly on the bottom, like lumpy vacuum cleaners with their short hose-like mouths kissing along in search of snail sustenance and information. Their tentacles are short and fairly stubby and curve a little like buffalo horns.

We thought we knew them well, but even a buffalo snail can surprise you if you pay enough attention. One day I saw that three of them were digging down into the sand and muck substrate. I worried that their artificial environment (our living room, after all) had provoked aberrant or even suicidal behavior. The snails disappeared except for the top rough hump of their shells. Then they stayed still for hours. Finally I dipped one huge arm in and pulled them up. They were so distressed that they hauled in all their paraphernalia, including the big fleshy pad or foot on which they glide around, and closed the door with a soft slam.

I thought they'd never move again, probably start to decompose and foul the little Eden on the coffee table. But by the end of the day the three calcareous monuments had moved on and were crawling about as usual. I'm still no wiser as to why they dug in like that, but now I've observed that they all do it, and fairly often. Maybe they need "quiet time," or go down there to digest or to lay eggs.

Another kind of snail we have looks like a coffee roll set up on edge. This is what snail scientists call a planospiral shell and is considered a primitive form. It is not conical and has no point. Unlike the buffalo snails, the coffee rolls have long, delicate tentacles and their mouths are right on the bottom of their big single feet, instead of on the end of a short hose. They move along pretty quickly, and I used to think of them as racing snails until I noticed the *real* racers.

These are the exciting, aggressive and truly gorgeous members of our snail community. Their shells glisten, are partly transparent, and have a graceful half-star pattern on them. They zoom along the glass walls, and they can also travel upside-down just under the surface of the water. Somehow their system of lines of muscles and tiny moving cilia or bristles finds some purchase on the surface tension.

The racers have long pointed tails, and once we watched a big one chasing a little one, nipping at its tail. Every time the big one caught up the little one would whip its shell back and forth, smacking its assailant in the face. I've also seen the racers twitch their shells around like that when they are not being provoked. Maybe it is a form of communication, or maybe house cleaning.

• • •

So far our house has not been invaded by Saturday cartoons. Our children watch the aquarium, greet its inhabitants, and call us in to notice something special. Like a television, the glowing glass box full of pond life is seductive, and I can hardly pass through the room without sitting down to watch. Reception is perfect, and there is always something good on.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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REMEMBERING

Remembering has a way
like icy fingers
Of lacing in and out
and giving pause . . . .

Why I must remember
in a downpour
Is something that defies
the common laws.

And what to do in
such a situation?
Best shun the rain, fly from it,
flee the scene . . . .

Yet rooted to this grey-gold pane
I stand here . . . .
Man's always been, alas,
what he has been.

— Sue Moody

Horse, sun, and hay, by Carrie Burke.

ATTIC SASH

Old panes of precious glass
Blink back the sunset
Singly while I pass,
As if a magician within
Holds up cards
Then makes them disappear.

— Peter Murkett

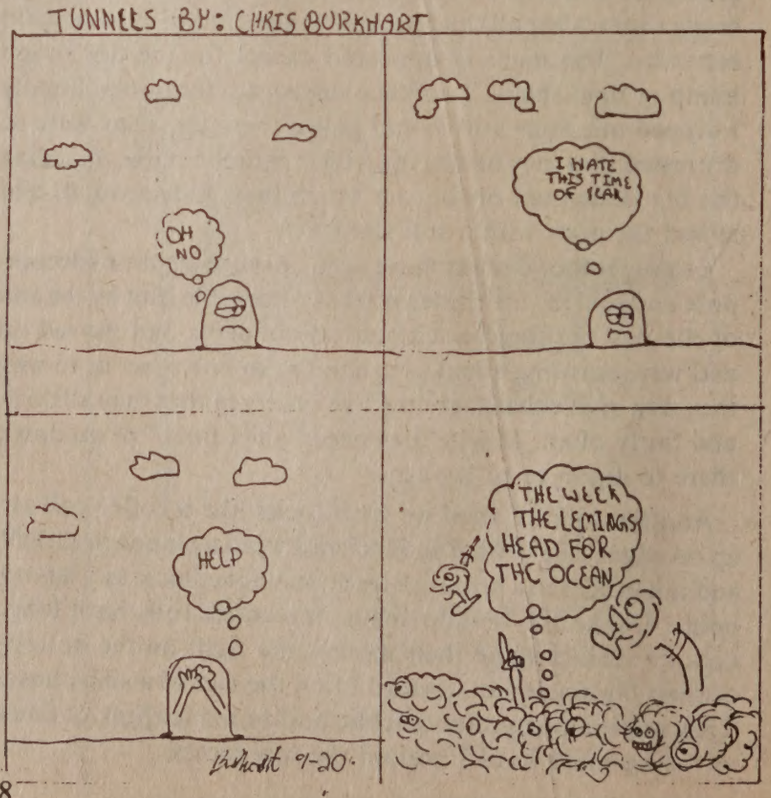
FRESHET

When the freshet roars down
Is it the water,
Is it the rocks,
Is it my own ears,
Speaking to me?

— David P. McAllester

SUSAN McALLESTER

Chris Burkhart, creator of "Tunnels."



SUSAN McALLESTER

A WALK IN THE BERKSHIRE WOODS

I walked among the trees today
Where October sun shone warm and bright.
Around me fell bright autumn leaves
And chipmunks scampered left and right.
A rabbit ran along my path
Then sat erect and scanned the scene.
He seemed content with what he saw
And winced not at a blue jay's scream.
It seemed so peaceful in the woods
Among the fern and frond
Where a brook babbled at my feet
Then ran into a beaver pond.
Some people travel many miles
To the Leaning Tower or Taj Mahal.
I'll *take the Berkshires' wooded trails*
For that's where Nature's *wonders are.*

— Eleanor Kimberley

MONTEREY WASTELINES

Ron and Lester on the Environment

We've been experimenting with some slight change in the way we pay for our town solid waste disposal. I said last month that I thought the very best way to charge for disposal would be on the basis of actual volume of waste delivered. I got that idea from Ronald Reagan. One of the hallmarks of the Reagan administration has been an attempt to have people pay directly for some of the special services worthy of user fees, and which are best offered equally to all citizens and paid for from general taxes. On that point, the president and I have had frequent disagreements. Matter of fact, some of us in Monterey will always have disagreements about it as well!

Lester Thurow, my favorite economist down the road at MIT, has some things to say about how we divide the costs of keeping a clean environment. First of all, he says in his book *The Zero Sum Society*, environmental issues are thoroughly economic in nature, and environmental concerns are expressed by people of the "upper middle class" more than by any other segment of society. Thurow says there are two basic ways to pay for a "high-quality" environment: effluent charges and tax collections. In the first case, people who consume more "polluting goods and services" will pay more for a clean environment, while in the second, of course, people who pay the most taxes will pay most for a clean environment.

I like the "bottle bill" form of environmental cleanup. The buyer of a can or bottle of soda or beer decides whether to make the effort to return the bottle and be repaid for the effort, or to drop it where s/he drinks it and let a more needy or compunctious soul turn it in and get the nickel. The deposit should be much higher, though. Like ten cents or a quarter. But the concept could go much broader, I think. How about junk cars? Flying low over my native northern Michigan last month, I noticed that where the soil was the poorest and the rural homesteads most isolated, away from the affluent lakeside areas, there would be three or four junk cars at every place. Maybe we (I mean the nation, now, not our town) should have a "deposit" on new cars, so that those who must buy old cars and run them till they drop would have a way to get rid of the carcass when it finally dies.

Household appliances are an even greater dilemma these days. In Monterey now, it costs $20 or so to get rid of a washer or a refrigerator. How about a deposit or tax when we buy a new appliance, then we could be assured of a place to take it when it wears out.

These are extensions of the "effluent charges" that Thurow was talking about. The more obvious charges would be taxes on industries, farms and businesses of all kinds which have atmospheric, terrestrial or groundwater modifications (i.e., pollution) as a by-product of their production. Does it all sound terribly bureaucratic? Maybe so. The point is to decide on policies which will help the right people to pay for a clean environment—those who benefit most and can most afford it—and to levy the charges at the most demonstrable point so that we know what we paid for, and why.

Well, my time's up. I'll try to get down out of the clouds next time.

— Wayne Burkhart

LIBRARY NEWS

Thanks for Puppet Workshop

The Monterey Library trustees would like to extend their grateful appreciation for the wonderful job done by Leslie Scutellaro in putting on this summer's puppet workshop at the library. Materials for the puppet making were sponsored by the Monterey Arts Council. The workshop was enjoyed so much by its young participants that the library plans to offer another next summer.

World Book Encyclopedia For Sale

The Monterey Library is offering for sale a 1964 World Book Encyclopedia with all yearbooks to 1987. The set is in excellent condition. The library will accept the best offer received by November 1.

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HEATING OIL CO-OP AVAILABLE IN MONTEREY

Remember the Monterey Energy Project? For those of you who don't, several years ago residents of Monterey pioneered many energy conservation projects in the Berkshires and in Massachusetts. The Monterey Energy Project worked closely with the Center for Ecological Technology (CET), a local non-profit energy organization. CET now has a new project which you should know about—a home oil heating cooperative. CET negotiated a contract with a full-service dealer to provide fuel oil to Co-op members. The dealer will charge members a fixed mark-up above its wholesale price. Although the price you pay over the heating season will rise and fall, these fluctuations will be based on the dealer's wholesale price (plus a fair mark-up). As of Labor Day the price to Monterey members was 68.8 cents per gallon. This is the first year of the Co-op in South County. Last year North County residents saved approximately thirteen cents for every gallon of oil, or about $125 over the heating season. Statewide, over 10,000 households now participate in heating oil cooperatives. For more information, contact Nancy Nylen at CET, 147 Tyler Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201; 445-4556 or 1-800-CET-1221.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

As an elected Town officer and a member of four appointed committees, I am affected by the recent cancellation of Monterey's liability coverage for Town officials. This action was taken by the insurance carrier, apparently, because of the actions of Glenn Heller.

While I hesitate to give Mr. Heller any more free press than he already has, I feel obligated to call upon him to stop this misguided "crusade" against the imagined evils of big government in Monterey. Of the several dozen people with whom I have served on committees, never has there been one who did not have the interests of our town uppermost in his or her mind. We all give up part of our precious free time without compensation to help run the Town.

Mr. Heller, if he really wants to help Monterey, should join committees, run for Town office. Let him put his convictions to the test—if he has a strong constituency behind him, then he will be elected. If he does not, he has no business trying to run the Town—we have already elected people to do that for us.

It takes courage to put yourself on the firing line by serving in Town government; it takes only arrogance to set yourself up as the Town's "savior" without a mandate from the townspeople.

Sincerely yours,

Eileen M. Clawson

To the Editor:

In August, the Assessors announced there would be a major property revaluation which would result in a stiff 30% increase in assessments. But there was no need to worry, they said, because "... if spending by the Town remains roughly the same, the increased assessments ... will serve only to reduce the tax rate, with the end result of a 'wash': no increase to an individual's tax bill." (*Monterey News*, August 1987) These are their words, not mine.

Just two years ago, during a time of a similar hunger for generating more revenue, the Selectmen pleaded for a Tax Override while voters were led to believe the Town was in dire financial straits. This resulted in taxes going straight up while, unbeknownst to the general public at the time, one Selectman's Mt. Hunger Road development project was in full swing gobbling up taxpayer monies at a phenomenal rate.

Now just this past September 14, the Selectmen announced they intend to buy a brand-new road grader for $120,000 and will soon call a Special Town Meeting in order to do it. They have also decided to refloat Monterey's version of the Titanic, that being the building of a "New" Town Hall. No figure has yet come forth, but you can be sure it will top a quarter million dollars when finished.

Another example of wasteful spending is that taxpayers just paid $11,000 too much for the resurfacing project on Route 23. This is because the Selectmen chose to accept a bid which was $11,000 *higher* rather than award the contract to the lowest bidder. The winning contractor, Lane Construction, has had lucrative dealings with the Town in the past and bid $179,000. Maxymillian, Inc., of Pittsfield had the low bid of $168,000 and, unbelievable as it may seem, *was not awarded the contract.* The Selectmen claimed it was because Maxymillian did not have the specified equipment, but after personally attending hearings in Springfield on the matter, my opinion is that the Selectmen wrote the bid requirements to favor Lane Construction. The end result is that due to our Selectmen's beneficence, Lane got the contract and the Town is $11,000 poorer.

Given just these few examples, do the Assessors really expect spending to remain "roughly the same" in the near future? Can they really expect to be believed when they say that tax bills will not go up soon after they manage to raise the assessments?

With regard to the unnecessary "New" Town Hall, an alternative suggestion is that a little time should be spent cleaning, painting, organizing, and straightening out the offices we already have rather than waste taxpayer monies on an edifice which will only serve to give our Town Office Secretary some place more elegant to sit.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn M. Heller

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To the Editor:

THE LITTLE TIN BOX

I remember from my childhood a tin box attached to the wooden frame of the door leading to our kitchen. It was so placed that we had to face it as we took our meals.

This box served as a depository of money for the benefit of orphan children; we made donations of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters on certain religious holidays. It was especially enriched after one of us had recovered from a childhood illness or a very bad cold, which in those days (before antibiotics, etc.) was considered quite a tragedy even for a few days.

Little did I realize the great influence this charitable receptacle and its purpose would have on my life and behavior. As I grew up it taught me charity, especially for children, the poor, and the indigent aged. I learned compassion, understanding, feeling, love and concern for mankind. I learned especially the art of communication and accommodation. For it is from the afflicted, whether poor or maimed, that we learn to enjoy life and be thankful.

This brings to the forefront the "divisiveness" existing in Monterey because of lack of communication and accommodation that David McAllester so well expressed in the *Monterey News* of September 1987. I agree with him for sake of argument that we have paid for admission to the community. But if that is what he wishes to call it, then as with all paid admissions we are automatically entitled to certain privileges. This holds true if you pay admission to a park or amusement center or art museum or whatever.

Instead of accommodation and communication we have "piled up" Town rules and regulations with additional bureaucracies to enforce them. At the last Town Meeting in May I addressed a specific question to one of the chairmen and he never answered personally. The town will not quiet down in all fairness until we see basic communication and accommodation.

Dr. Benjamin Zackim

ARTS COUNCIL FESTIVAL

Fall has arrived, and The Monterey Arts Council presents MOON OF THE FALLING LEAVES, an evening of songs and stories of the Iroquois and Abenaki by story-teller Joseph Bruchac and singer, song-writer Poncho. The event will take place Sunday, October 11, 1987, at 7:30 p.m. in Monterey, at the United Church of Christ. Admission is $5.00, free for children under eight years of age.

This is the perfect event for the Columbus Day Weekend, with the leaves at their peak of color and cool crisp days and nights. What better way to spend the evening than hearing the tales and traditions of the first peoples in this area. Joseph Bruchac is a master story-teller and is of Abenaki ancestry. His tales from the traditions of Northeastern Native Americans weave a magic spell for adults as well as children.

Performing with Mr. Bruchac is Poncho, a singer, song-writer from the North Country of the Adirondack Mountains. Poncho plays acoustic guitar, and his songs reflect his love for the natural beauty of the mountains and the people who live there. He has been particularly influenced by the teachings of Native Americans in the Northeast, and his songs express his respect and love for his teachers. Poncho is especially noted for the strong rapport he develops with his audience.

As a special treat, Monterey's own David McAllester will introduce the event and share some of his knowledge of Native American traditions and songs.

To complete the evening there will be lots of apple cider and fresh-baked cookies. Join us and welcome in the fall with this special evening.

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LAND TRUST NEWS

The Monterey Land Trust held its annual meeting in Bidwell Park on Saturday, August 22. The gathering was smaller than was hoped, but as it had been raining off and on all day, it was assumed this was the reason for the small turnout. For those who did come, the meeting was a pleasant occasion, in spite of the weather, and we all enjoyed the "waste-free" snacks. Bidwell Park was a wonderful place in which to consider the future of Open Space in our town. Thank you, Park Commission, for replacing the picnic tables and caring for the site so well.

Bob Thieriot presided and displayed photos of the land which has been donated to the Land Trust to date. He also discussed with those present the outlook for Land Bank Legislation, explained what it is, for those who were not familiar with this program, and outlined what benefits such a possibility would have for Monterey. Legislation for this program is now pending in the State Legislature to allow towns to adopt this method of raising funds to save their Open Space and provide affordable housing for their citizens.

Roger Tryon spoke about the Agricultural Restriction Program (ARP), under which an active farmer may apply to the state and if accepted will be compensated for the real value of his land. This enables the farmer to continue to farm his land and also to realize his equity during his lifetime. Without this program many farmers who would like to continue farming would be forced to sell their land. Roger also stressed the importance farmland plays in the well being of a rural community and how important it is that it be preserved. For more information on this program call Roger at 528-4091.

The election of the slate of new board members was held, and the following people are now directors:

Joe Baker (1)
Jane & Gordon Bowles (2)
Colleen Carlisle (3)
Chris Dunlop (3)
Nick Hearon (3)
Carol Lewis (1)
David McAllester (alternate)
Peter Murkett
Michael O'Connor (2)
Robert Rausch (3)
Eric Roper (alternate)
Joyce Scheffey (1)
Lew Scheffey (1)
Bob Thieriot (1)
Roger Tryon (2)
Peter Vallianos

(The number remaining after the names indicates the number of years remaining in each term in accordance with our by-laws, which specify staggered terms. Those with one year remaining may run for re-election next year, if they wish.)

It was announced that Eric Roper will put together an Advisory Board of New York members, who have expressed a desire to be more active in Land Trust affairs. We welcome this innovation and wish it success.

The first board meeting of the new directors was held at Bob Thieriot's on September 8. Officers were elected as follows:

Lew Scheffey, President
Bob Thieriot, Vice President
Roger Tryon, Treasurer (Joyce Scheffey, Asst.)
Peter Murkett, Secretary (Nick Hearon, Jane Bowles, Assts.)

The board would like to extend to Jane and Gordon Bowles wishes for a very Bon Voyage and an enjoyable "working visit" to Japan. We will miss their sage comments as well as Jane's fine secretaryship while they are abroad.

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ETHEL E. WARNER

Ethel E. Warner, 76, a lifelong resident of Monterey, died at Fairview Hospital September 14. She was a member of the First Congregational Church, was a member of the Monterey Grange for 60 years, and was also active for many years in the Berkshire South Pomona Grange.

She leaves her husband of 48 years, Kenneth A. Warner; two sons, Theodore E. Warner of Sandisfield and John A. Warner of Monterey; a daughter, Nancy E. Dean of Becket; a sister, Eleanor H. Kimberley of Sandisfield; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

MONTEREY YOUTH NEWS

School has begun, and many students are participating in extracurricular activities. The soccer teams promise to be strong this year. Members from Monterey include Natasha Grotz, Jenny Brown, Brooke Loder, Livy Williams, Doug Brown, Bill Thieriot, Kip Loder, and Mike Ohman.

The cross-country team is also strong this year. The Monterey runners are Kip Makuc and Shelby Loder.

The Quiz Team at Mt. Everett is starting off the school year with a trip to Albany, where they will be filming a show of *Answers Please*, found on channel six on Sundays. Monterey members are Kip Makuc, Anne Marie Makuc, Janet Thieriot, and Bill Thieriot.

Under the supervision of a new band director, the Mt. Everett marching band will participate in two fall events. The first, on Saturday, October 3, is a half-time show at the University of Massachusetts, where the band will combine with many other bands from around the area. The following day the band will march in the annual fall foliage parade. Chris Burkhart, Natasha Grotz, Shelby Loder, Brooke Loder, Anne Marie Makuc, Marta Makuc, and Mike Ohman will all be included in these events.

— Shelby Loder

WORLD FOOD DAY

On Friday, October 16, in commemoration of World Food Day, there will be a series of events at the Sheffield Grange. There will be display tables, exhibits of photography and paintings stressing different aspects of our dependence on our environment, and, in the evening, a potluck supper and speakers. A panel discussion will feature Liz Hendersen, a farmer from Greenfield, George Wislocki, Director of the Berkshire County Resource Council (Land Trusts), and Representative Chris Hodgkins. There will also be a poetry reading by Victoria Passier. For information call Robin at 528-4374.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, October 2—Boiler Room Reading, at the Boiler Room Café, Southfield. John Hansen Mitchell, author of *Ceremonial Time*, 9:00 p.m. For information about admission, reservations, or dinner beforehand, call 229-3105.

Mondays, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26—Bible Study Group at the Schulzes' on New Marlboro Road. Free of charge: sign up at General Store or call Karen Gottlieb-Schulze at 528-4052.

Thursday, October 8—Skating Committee of the Park Commission, open to all; 7:30 p.m., Town offices.

Friday, October 9—Boiler Room Reading: David P. McAllester, author of *Enemy Way Music*: Indian poems and original stories. For details see above, October 2.

Saturday, October 10—Square and Contra Dance, New England Style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults $3.50, children $1 to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Beach Committee of the Park Commission. 10:00 a.m. in the Church basement; everyone welcome.

Sunday, October 11—"Moon of the Falling Leaves," an evening of songs and stories of the Iroquois and Abenaki by storyteller, Joseph Bruchac and singer, song-writer Poncho. 7:30 p.m., United Church of Christ. Presented by the Monterey Arts Council. $5.00, children under eight years free.

Tuesday, October 13—Gazebo Committee of the Park Commission. 7:00 p.m., Church basement; all who are interested are invited.

Friday, October 16—World Food Day at the Sheffield Grange. Exhibits, speakers in the evening. Call 528-4374.

Boiler Room Reading: Barry Sternlieb, poet, author of the poetry collection, *Fission*.

Tuesday, October 20—Arts Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. United Church of Christ.

Friday, October 23—Boiler Room Reading: Mark Kramer, author of *Three Farms*.

Saturday, October 24—Square and Contra Dance at the Sheffield Grange. For those who have already had some experience. See details above, October 10.

Tennis Committee of the Park Commission. At Camp Deerwood on Lake Buel Road, at 10:00 a.m. See Park Commission report for more details.

Wednesday, October 28—Community Supper. Judy Lunseth will give an account of her recent trip to China with David Grover and students from the DeSisto School. They were cultural ambassadors through music. Potluck supper at 6:30

Friday, October 30—Boiler Room Reading: Robert J. Lurtzema will regale everyone with Hallowe'en selections. See October 2 for details of reservations.

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MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange No. 291 had its regular meeting September 16. The recent fund raiser was a success, and the Grange wants to thank all who helped. The Grange will have an exhibit at the Great Barrington Fair.

Lecturer Mary Wallace will be the delegate to the state session at Chicopee in October.

In an open meeting, Past State Lecturer Dorothy E. Warden and suite from Oxford will jointly install the officers of Great Barrington and Monterey Granges on October 7.

— Mary Wallace
Lecturer

SUSAN McALLESTER

House on the move: the filigree house at the corner of Route 23 and Blue Hill Road is turned to face the highway and moved 100 feet east.

AD RATES

One-inch classified ads (1" x 3 5/8")...$2.50

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Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. Copy should reach the editor by the 20th of the month before publication. In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

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Youth Editor	Shelby Loder
Art Editor	Bonner McAllester
Personal Notes Editor	Stephanie Grotz
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